

A European-Mediterranean species, *Mythimna albipuncta* ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Hadeninae) new to the East Asian fauna

Shin-ichi YOSHIMATSU

Natural Resources Inventory Center, National Institute for Agro-Environmental Sciences,
Kannondai 3-1-3, Tsukuba, Ibaraki, 305-8604 Japan; e-mail: yosimatu@niaes.affrc.go.jp

Abstract A European-Mediterranean species, *Mythimna albipuncta* ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) is recorded from East Asia for the first time on the basis of a male specimen collected in North Korea with illustration of the male genitalia.

Key words *Mythimna albipuncta*, Noctuidae, North Korea, male genitalia.

Introduction

Mythimna albipuncta ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) is distributed from North Africa through central and southern Europe and Turkey to Turkmenistan. In Central and South Europe it is a resident occurring in different biotopes up to 1,800 m and it is a frequent migrant in the northern part of Europe, reaching Ireland and the southern part of Sweden, mainly in August to September (Hacker *et al.*, 2002). It is also recorded in Latvia and Lithuania (Švitra *et al.*, 2003). However it has never been recorded from the eastern part of Asia. Therefore this is the first record of this species from East Asia.

***Mythimna albipuncta* ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) (Figs 1–4)**

Noctua albipuncta [Denis & Schiffermüller], 1775, *Ank. Syst. Werk. Schmett. Wienergegend*: 84.

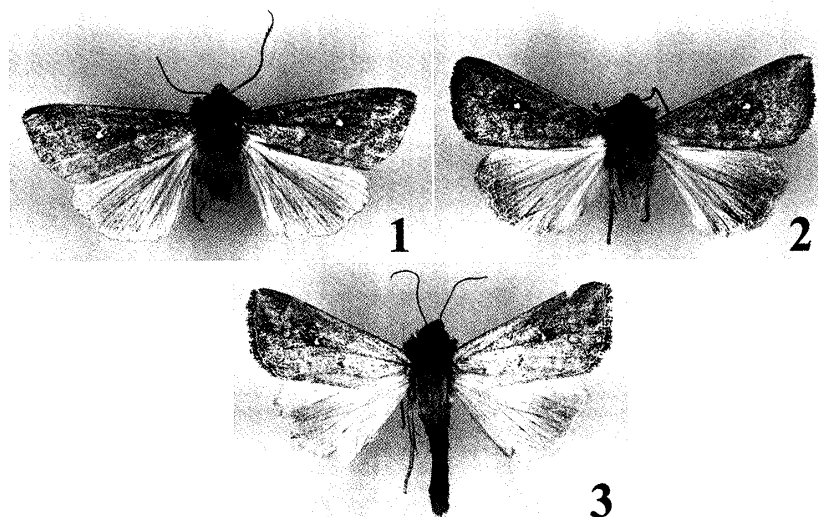
Mythimna (Hyphilare) albipuncta: Hacker *et al.*, 2002: 190, figs 148, 312, distribution map on p. 187, pl. 12, figs 61–65.

For other synonyms, see Hacker *et al.* (2002).

Specimens examined. [East Asia] 1 ♂, Mt Pektusan, before Sam-zi-yan hotel, lake-shore, 19. vii. 1977, No. 379, light trap, Dely & Draskovits, Genitalia Slide No. NSMT 5004 ♂; [Europe] 1 ♂, Nymphonburger Park, München, Bav. mer., Germany, 27. v. 1957, F. Daniel, Genitalia Slide No. SS-2279 ♂; [Africa] 1 ♀, Michllfen, 2,000 m, Mittlerer Atlas Ifrane S., Morocco, 11–12. vi. 1989, A. Hofmann.

Distribution. North Africa, Central Europe, South Europe, North Europe, Belarus, Latvia, Lithuania, Turkey, Turkmenistan and North Korea.

Remarks. Hreblay *et al.* (1999) included *M. albipuncta* in the *albipuncta*-group of the subgenus Hyphilare. The *albipuncta*-group comprises *M. albipuncta* ([Denis & Schiffermüller]), *M. ferrago* (Fabricius) and *M. littoralis* (Curtis) all of which are European-Mediterranean species. *M. ferrago caliginata* Hreblay was described in Hreblay (1999) on the basis of fuscous specimens from Pakistan. The males of this subgenus usually have well developed black ventral tufts (coremata) on the basal abdominal segment. The external appearance of *M. littoralis* is rather dissimilar from the two other species, but, on the basis of the close similarity in every important detail of the genitalia, these three taxa are considered to be very closely related. *M. albipuncta* and *M. ferrago* are very similar externally, but they are distinguishable by the male genitalia. In the male genitalia *M. albipuncta*



Figs 1–3. Adults of *Mythimna albipuncta* ([Denis & Schiffermüller]). 1. Male from North Korea. 2. Male from Germany. 3. Female from Morocco.

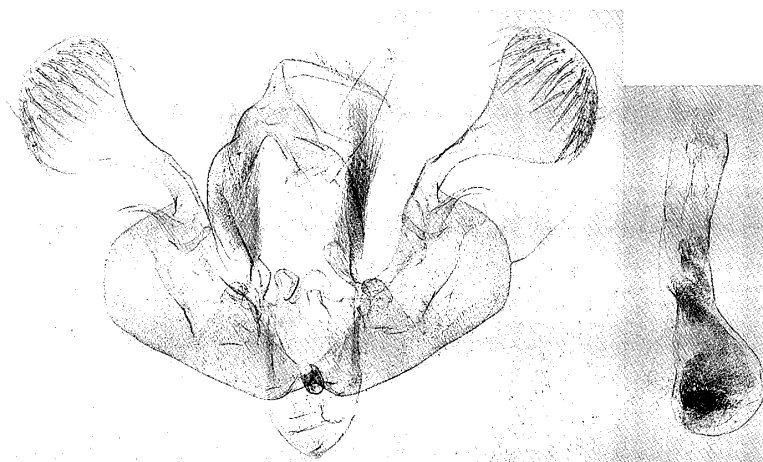


Fig. 4. Male genitalia of *Mythimna albipuncta* ([Denis & Schiffermüller]), from North Korea.

has an evenly rounded cucullus and a distally constricted harpe, while *M. ferrago* has no such cucullus and harpe. As the male genitalia of the specimen captured at Mt Pekutusan, North Korea had been already mounted on a slide by Mr Sugi without the vesica everted, I was unable to examine the detailed morphology of the vesica. The male genitalia of the North Korean material are identical to those of European material of *M. albipuncta* available to me and those of *M. albipuncta* illustrated by Hreblay *et al.* (1999) and Hacker *et al.* (2002).

Members of the *obscura*-group in the same subgenus *Hyphilare* involving 15 Asian species defined by Hreblay *et al.* (1999) also have similar forewing maculation to *M. albipuncta* and *M. ferrago*. All members of the *obscura*-group also have well developed black ventral tufts on the basal abdominal segment. There is no cornutus on the vesica in *M. albipuncta*, but distinct cornuti are present on the vesica in all members of the *obscura*-group. Some of the members of the *obscura*-group are endemic to the southeast Asian Islands, like *M. brunneicoccinea* (Calora) and *M. liebherri* Yoshimatsu in the Philippines (Yoshimatsu, 1991) and *M. borneana* Yoshimatsu in Borneo (Yoshimatsu, 1995).

Acknowledgements

I thank Mr S. Sugi for the donation of his collections to NIAES, Tsukuba, Japan.

References

- Hacker, H. Ronkay, L. & M. Hreblay, 2002. Hadeninae I. In Fibiger, M., Agassiz, D. and M. Honey (Eds), *Nuctuidae Europaeae* **4**. 419 pp. Entomological Press, Sørø.
- Hreblay, M., Legrain, A. & S. Yoshimatsu, 1999. Beschreibung von zwölf neuen Arten und zwei Unterarten mit einer Übersicht über die Artengruppen des *Mythimna* Ochsenheimer, 1816-Komplexes der südostasiatischen Region (II) (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae). *Esperiana* **7**: 377–398.
- Švitra, G., Dapkus, D. & R. Kazlauskas, 2003. Six noctuid (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae) species new for the Lithuanian fauna. *Acta Zool. Lithuanica* **13**: 290–293.
- Yoshimatsu, S., 1991. A new species of *Aletia* (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae) resembling *Aletia brunneicoccinea* Calora. *Tyô Ga* **42**: 163–168.
- , 1995. Notes on the genus *Mythimna* (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae) from North Borneo, with description of a new species. *Jap. J. Ent.* **63**: 235–241.

摘 要

ヨーロッパ-地中海沿岸産の種 *Mythimna albipuncta* ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) (鱗翅目, ヤガ科, ヨトウガ亜科) の東アジアからの初めての記録 (吉松慎一)

Mythimna albipuncta ([Denis & Schiffermüller]) はヨーロッパ, アフリカ北部, トルコ, トルクメニスタンにかけて分布するキョトウの仲間である。移動性のある蛾で, スウェーデンやフィンランドなどの北ヨーロッパへは夏から秋にかけて, 中央ヨーロッパなどの南の個体群が飛来・侵入してくる。これまで東アジアでは本種の記録は全くなかったが, 今回, 北朝鮮の白頭 (ペクト) 山で採集された1雄標本に基づき初めて記録される。キョトウの仲間であることから本種幼虫もイネ科植物を幅広く食べることが分かっている。食草的には東アジアに分布していても特に問題はない。東アジアにおいては, 個体数が少ないながら生息しているのかもしれない。

(Accepted November 16, 2006)